

MULLER

Appl. No. 09/545,872

August 12, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination of the captioned application is respectfully requested.

A. SUMMARY OF THIS AMENDMENT

By the current amendment, Applicant basically:

1. Amends independent claim 1 by including therein the subject matter of now-cancelled dependent claim 94, claims 2 – 5 and 57 – 58 being dependent upon independent claim 1.
2. Amends independent claim 36 by including therein the subject matter of now-cancelled dependent claim 96, claims 27 – 40, 46, 47, 63 and 64 being dependent upon independent claim 36.
3. Amends independent claim 41 by including therein the subject matter of now-cancelled dependent claim 97, claims 42 – 45, 48 – 56 being dependent upon independent claim 41.
4. Amends independent claim 67 by including therein the subject matter of now-cancelled dependent claim 98, claims 68 – 87 being dependent upon independent claim 67.
5. Cancel claims 6 – 21, 59 – 62, 88 – 93, and 95 without prejudice or disclaimer.
6. Respectfully traverses all prior art rejections.

B. PATENTABILITY OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-3, 5-17, 19-20, 36-38, 40-52, 54-55, 57-64, 67-69, 71-83, 85-86 and 88-91 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,848,063 to Weaver Jr. et al and further in view of U.S. patent 6,097,954 to Kumar et al and U.S. Patent 5,999,816 to Tiedermann et al (see the paragraph entitled "Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103" on page 3 through the end of the second paragraph of page 9